has been implementing the Plan Scheme for Upgradation of Technology through the successive Annual Plans under the 8th Five Year Plan in all Postal Circles in the country including Orissa Postal Circle.

A programme for upgrading counter services to provide more responsive and efficient customer service through introduction of computer-based counter machines is being implemented under the 8th Five Year Plan and 85 such machines have so far been installed in postal counters in Orissa Circle. Another six machines are in operation in the Local Area Networks set up in Ashok Nagar Sub Post Office in Bhubaneswar and College Square Sub Post Office in Cuttack in Orissa Circle under the programme for computerisation of Savings Bank work.

A programme for front office modernisation, centered around counter machines has been implemented in 9 Post Offices in Orissa Circle upto 31.3.1996. These Post Offices are :—

(1) Ashok Nagar SO
(2) College Square S.O.
(3) Bhubaneswar GPO
(4) Chandni Chowk HO
(5) Gopalpur SO
(6) Berhampur HO
(7) Rourkela HO
(8) Sambalpur HO
(9) Cuttack GPO

A programme for computerisation of agreement work of Savings Bank binders has been successfully implemented in 11 post offices in Orissa Circle through computerisation of the Savings Bank Control Organisation. These post offices are:

(1) Balasore HO
(2) Puri HO
(3) Cuttack GP0
(4) Bhubaneswar GPO
(5) Chandni Chowk HO
(6) Berhampur HO
(7) Koraput HO
(8) Balangir HO
(9) Rourkela HO
(10) Bhadrak HO
(11) Sambalpur HO

A pilot scheme for more efficient and speedier transmission of money order through satellite channel has been implemented by setting up very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) at 3 sites—Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur, and Berhampur in Orissa Circle.

In the field of Mail Operations, improvement is a continuous process, which is ensured through detailed monitoring at different levels by way of, inspections/visits and control. Recently, as a part of the 10 Point Action Plan to improve Postal Services, mail arrangements in rural areas were extensively reiviewed. In Orissa, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar RMS Offices and Speed Post Business Centres have been modernised. The following premium services have also been introduced in the State (i) Hybrid Mail, (ii) Corporate Money Order and (iii) Express Parcel Service from metro centers to Bhubaneswar.

13 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 90 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been sanctioned in Orissa during the 8th Five Year Plan.

The 9th Five Year Plan scheme of the Department is yet to be finalised. However, thrust for modernisation of Postal Service through consolidation and extension of programmes initiated in the 8th Five Year Plan is envisaged in the 9th Five Year Plan and this will cover Orissa State also.

3

Capital Investment in the Textiles Industry

531. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of capital investment

made in the Textiles Industry during the last three years and till date;

(b) whether it a fact that significant increase in exports of textile are taking place continuously; and

(c) if so, the incentives Government propose to provide to the exporters of cotton fabric and cotton yarn during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) Indian Textiles Industry comprisces of various segments, namely mill sector, powerloom handloom, sericulture, handicrafts etc. Most of these segments are in the un-organised sectors or in the organised private/sectors. Capital investment in various segments of the textile industry are made in individual units on a continuous basis. Firm figures towards capital investment being made by the industry are therefore, not available.

(b) The Exports performance of the textile sector has been quite satisfactory during the first 4 years of the VIII Five Year Plan. The value of export in US million $ in these years has exceeded the target. However, thereis a slowing down of the the growth of textile export in 1995-96 as compared to figures of previous years.

(c) The Government have provided exporters of textiles including Cotton fabric and cotton yarn the following incentives:—

(i) In order to boost textile export the Govt. have been taking a number of steps which include encouraging exporters to participate in Buyer-Seller meets, participation in fairs and exhibitions in major markets; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines, product development and quality upgradation through appropriate training programmes; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

(ii) The Textile Export Promotion Councils under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles, have opened four One-Man Textiles Export Promotion Offices at Osaka (Japan), Malbourne (Australia), Durban (South Africa) and Sao Paulo (Brazil) to give a strong thrust to our export promotion work in these countries/regions.

(iii) As a part of overall strategy to prepare our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries, Govt. has taken widespread measures. The Textile Committee, various Textile Research Association, Export Promotion Councils and other Industry Associations have been conducting a large number of seminars, workshops and distributing information brochures to create an awareness amongst all segments of industry and trade regarding the dyes to be used for export eco-friendly textiles. Besides, eco-texting facilities have been commissioned at important production centres.

Announcement of Cotton Export Policy

532. DR. MOHAN BABU:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export policy of cotton has been announced;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay in announcing the policy;

(c) whether prices of cotton in India are falling although production of cotton has been very low in foreign countries like China, Turkey, etc.; and